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19357

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272 7590 07/27/2009  
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EXAMINER

BOEHLER, ANNE MARIE M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3611

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/27/2009

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.



Art Unit: 3611

1. Claim 16 IS objected to because of the following informalities: In line 2, after “rods” –of- should be inserted. In line 3, after “angle” “a” should be deleted. Appropriate correction is required.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 2, and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by FR 1,251,296.

French patent no. 1,251,296 shows a hydraulic steering system with two steering piston-cylinder devices 6-12 and a variable, reversible hydraulic pump 1, that is responsive to an input device (steering wheel 4), connected to both cylinders in a closed circuit.

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over FR 1,251,296 in view of Li (USPN 5,937,966).

FR '296 fails to position the steering cylinders so they are oriented to each other at no more than a 90 degree angle.

Li shows a power steering system for a work vehicle with two actuators 34, 36, that are oriented to each other at less than a 90 degree angle.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to orient the FR '296 steering cylinders at a less than 90 degree relative angle, as taught by Li, in order to effectively position them between vehicle sections.

5. Claims 6-15 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-5 and 16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anne Marie M. Boehler whose telephone number is 571-272-6641. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00, Monday-Thursday, and alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lesley Morris can be reached on 571-272-6612. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3611

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Anne Marie M Boehler/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3611

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Art Unit 3611